

Fall 10-30-2016

Christopher Gross, cello

Lehigh University Music Department

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Lehigh University Music Department

2016-2017 Season
Baker Hall
Zoellner Arts Center
www.lehigh.edu/music

 LU MusicDept

Lehigh University Music Department presents

Christopher Gross,
violoncello
Steven Beck,
piano

STORYTELLER

Sunday, October 30, 2016

8:00 pm

Baker Hall

Zoellner Arts Center

*Christopher Gross is the 2017
Theodore U. Horger '61 Artist-in-Residence
in the Performing Arts at Lehigh University.*

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PROGRAM

In manus tuas (2009)

Caroline Shaw
(b. 1982)

Chant saphique, op. 91 (1891)

Camille Saint-Saëns
(1835-1921)

Eos (1998)

James Dillon
(b. 1950)

Pohádka (1910-1926)

Leoš Janáček
(1854-1928)

I. *Con moto*

II. *Con moto*

III. *Allegro*

intermission

Ai limiti della notte (1979)

Salvatore Sciarrino
(b. 1947)

Waldesruhe (1883-1891)

Antonín Dvořák
(1841-1904)

An Orbicle of Jasp (1999)

Charles Wuorinen
(b. 1938)

Sonate for cello and piano (1915)

Claude Debussy
(1862-1918)

I. *Prologue: Lent, sostenuto e molto risoluto*

II. *Sérénade: Modérément animé*

III. *Finale: Animé, léger et nerveux*

PROGRAM NOTES

Saint-Saëns, *Chant saphique*

The rhythm of the melody for Saint-Saëns' *Chant saphique* follows the syllabic form of a sapphic poem, an ancient form of Greek poetry. A recitation, perhaps.

Dillon, *Eos*

James Dillon writes: "Eos, the Greek goddess of the dawn, the Roman aurora. In Homer she is yellow-robed and rosy-fingered and drives her chariot across the sky each morning...It has been suggested that such legends are a euphemism for death, life being at its lowest ebb at dawn. Then, it is not a 'lack of warmth' but the 'presence of non-warmth.'"

Janáček, *Pohádka* ("A Tale")

Scenes from a tale of young lovers who, in the face of myriad obstacles, are united by magic. Despite the ostensibly happy ending, the music is often fragmented and muted, interrupted by lyrical outbursts that suggest despair as much as romance.

Sciarrino, *Ai limiti della notte* ("At the edges of night")

In darkness our sense of sound is often heightened. Tremor, shimmer, ring.

Dvořák, *Waldesruhe* ("Silent Woods")

As I walk through the trees, my mind often wanders through old thoughts and new questions.

Wuorinen, *An Orbicle of Jasp*

From *Pale Fire*, by Vladimir Nabokov:

How not to panic when you're made a ghost
Sidle and slide, choose a smooth surd, and coast,
Meet solid bodies and glissade right through,
Or let a person circulate through you.
How to locate in blackness, with a gasp,
Terra the Fair, an orbicle of jasp.

Debussy, *Sonate*

"Pierrot fâché avec la lune." Pierrot, the clown, is angry with the moon.

Thoughts on the program

Storyteller is an exploration of the many ways that music connects to the metaphor of storytelling and narrative. In a literal sense, each piece on this program connects to an element of 'story' in some way: the evocation of a setting, character, or text; or, even more directly, the use of a fairy tale, myth, or novel as a source of inspiration.

More universally though, Storyteller hopes to explore with you, the audience, a mode of listening that imagines each piece as containing its own narrative, conjured up through the abstract relationships of the sounds in the room. In a sense, all of us — performers and audience — become "storytellers" in these moments: we on stage may recite the verse, but the audience creates the story. As we purposefully take into ourselves the sounds of the piece, we each build our own experience, creating the relationships, the dramatic arc, the twists and turns of plot, the climactic scenes and resolutions.

A title, a character, a place, a tale. These are not instructions from the composer, but suggestions meant to stir in us the early threads of a plot that is only completed through sound. It is our job to find these threads, and weave them together. The beauty of music, and for all art really, is that in these moments these stories exist uniquely within each of us. They connect to our own personal memories, thoughts, and emotions, which are ever changing. With each new experience of the piece, each new telling of the story, we all create a world, over and over again.

— Chris Gross

* * *

Shaw, *In manus tuas* ("in your hands")

Caroline Shaw writes: "*In manus tuas* is based on a 16th-century motet by Thomas Tallis...the motion (or lack of) is intended to capture the sensation of a single moment of hearing the motet in the particular and remarkable space of Christ Church in New Haven, Connecticut."

ABOUT THE ARTISTS



Christopher Gross is the 2016-17 Horger Artist-in-Residence at Lehigh University. Following a recent solo performance, *The Strad Magazine* wrote: "The tone of Gross's cello enveloped the crowd [as he] showed energy and intonational accuracy, even when racing around the fingerboard." He is a founding member of the Talea Ensemble, which has appeared frequently at major venues and festivals throughout the United States and Europe. He has also appeared as guest with leading contemporary music ensembles including the International Contemporary Ensemble, Argento Ensemble, Cygnus Ensemble, Flux Quartet, and

others. As a member of various ensembles he has appeared in recording on the Tzadik, Bridge, Albany, Wergo, and New World labels. He is the founder of the project Cello Solos Today, which seeks to commission new contemporary works for student cellists, and which recently received grants from New Music USA and the Juilliard Entrepreneurship Award (www.cellosolostoday.org).

As an active educator, he serves as Teaching Artist of the New York Philharmonic and is a certified Suzuki Method instructor. He has given lectures on contemporary string performance at Harvard University, Sydney Conservatory (Australia), and Brooklyn College, and has written articles on music education for the *American Suzuki Journal*, *The Juilliard Journal*, and *Playbill*. He recently received the Doctor of Musical Arts degree from Juilliard in New York.



Pianist Steven Beck continues to gather acclaim for his performances and recordings. Recent career highlights include performances of Beethoven's variations and bagatelles at Bargemusic, where he first performed the Beethoven sonata cycle. In addition, this season he performs with the Orlando Philharmonic

and repeats his annual performance of Bach's "Goldberg Variations" on Christmas Eve at the Barge; this has become a New York institution. Steven Beck is an experienced performer of new music, having worked with Elliott Carter, Pierre Boulez, Henri Dutilleux, Charles Wuorinen, George Crumb, George Perle, and Fred Lerdahl, and performed with ensembles such as *Speculum Musicae* and the New York New Music Ensemble. He is a member of the Da Capo Chamber Players, the Knights, and the Talea Ensemble. He is also a member of Quattro Mani, a piano duo specializing in contemporary music. Mr. Beck's discography includes Peter Lieberman's third piano concerto (for Bridge Records) and a recording of Elliott Carter's "Double Concerto" on Albany Records. The debut CD of his chamber ensemble "Pleasure is the Law" was released on Boston Records in 2009.

More information about Steven Beck can be found at his website, stevenbeckpiano.com.

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Lehigh University Music Department
2016 – 2017 Season

September

24 at 8 pm

Hell's Kitchen Funk Orchestra: *Hot off the Press*

October

1 at 7 pm

Dalí String Quartet: Horger Artists-in-Residence

30 at 3 pm

Christopher Gross, cellist: Horger Artist-in-Residence Faculty Recital

November

4 & 5 at 8 pm

LU Choral Arts: *Rise Up!*

12 at 8 pm

LU Jazz Orchestra: *Big Band and Funk with Lou Marini*

13 at 2 pm

Lehigh Student Chamber Music Ensembles

17 at 7 pm

Lehigh-Lafappella concert

December

3 at 8 pm

LU Jazz Ensemble, Funk Band and Combos

4 at 3 pm

Wind Ensemble at Lehigh University: *Jubilee*

9 & 10 at 8 pm

LU Philharmonic: *Mahler Symphony No. 6*

11 at 4, 8 pm

LU Choral Arts: *Christmas Vespers* in Packer Chapel

17 at 1, 4 pm

The Nutcracker at Zoellner Arts Center

18 at 2 pm

The Nutcracker at Zoellner Arts Center

February

11 at 8 pm

NY Jazz Repertory Orchestra: *Classic to Contemporary Big Band*

12 at 3 pm

Andrea and Samantha Wittchen: *Harp Duo recital*

17 at 7:30

Dolce and LU Women's Voices Concert: *Raise Your Voice*

19 at 3 pm

LU Jazz Faculty: *American Standards*

24 & 25 at 8 pm

LU Philharmonic: *Concerto Marathon*

March

2 at 8 pm

Ian Rosenbaum, percussionist: Ulrich Artist-in-Residence Recital

4 at 8 pm

Dalí String Quartet and Ian Rosenbaum, percussionist

5 at 3 pm

East Winds Quintet: *Serendipity*

26 at 3 pm

Faculty Recital: Michael Jorgensen, violin: *The Brahms Violin Sonatas*

31 at 8 pm

LU Choir, Glee Club and Dolce: *Spanish Nights*

April

1 at 8 pm

LU Choir, Glee Club and Dolce: *Spanish Nights*

2 at 3 pm

Lehigh Student Chamber Music Ensembles at St. Peter's Church

8 at 8 pm

LU Jazz Orchestra: *Sketches of Spain*

9 at 7 pm

Karen Huffstodt, Faculty Recital: *The Women of Kurt Weill*

22 at 8 pm

LU Jazz Ensemble, Funk Band and Combos

23 at 2 pm

LU Symphonic Band

23 at 4:30 pm

Senior Recitalist: Peter Schaedler, clarinet

23 at 6:30 pm

Senior Recitalist: Kaitlyn Ruffing, flute

28 & 29 at 8 pm

LU Philharmonic: *Holst: The Planets*

May

5 at 7:30 pm

LU Choral Arts with Joyful Noise: *Everytime I Feel the Spirit!*

6 at 4 pm

LU Choral Arts with Joyful Noise: *Everytime I Feel the Spirit!*

7 at 3 pm

The Wind Ensemble at Lehigh University: *British & American Classics*

8 at 4 pm

LU Music Department Awards

8 at 8 pm

LU Opera Scenes Workshop Concert